

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Wayne A. Harper, Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Sen. John L. Valentine
Sen. Todd Weiler

Members Absent:

Sen. Karen Mayne

Staff Present:

Mr. Brian J. Bean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Nathan W. Brady, Policy Analyst
Ms. Anna M. Allen, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Harper called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

2. Consideration of Proposed Appointment of Spencer J. Cox as Lieutenant Governor

Rep. Spencer Cox gave opening comments. He introduced himself and thanked the committee and the governor for the opportunity to serve as lieutenant governor.

Governor Gary Herbert commented on the difficulty in choosing someone for the position of lieutenant governor and expressed his confidence in Rep. Cox's ability to fill the role. Governor Herbert discussed Rep. Cox's background and qualifications. He also detailed Rep. Cox's professional success and stated his opinion that Rep. Cox will fit the position of lieutenant governor well.

Rep. Cox responded to questions on topics including his public service, his view on the role of lieutenant governor, his views on the investigation of the attorney general, and his ability to maintain impartiality toward the investigation of the attorney general.

Rep. Derek Brown stated his opinion that Rep. Cox is well-qualified for the position of lieutenant governor, stating that Rep. Cox is well-grounded, has shown good judgment, and is a thoughtful lawyer. Rep. Brown also acknowledged the sacrifices that the Cox family would have to make if Rep. Cox is confirmed as the lieutenant governor.

Ms. Abby Cox thanked the committee for the opportunity for the Cox family to give back to the state of Utah. She also thanked the committee for its consideration of Rep. Cox for this role.

MOTION: Sen. Valentine moved that the committee recommend Rep. Cox as lieutenant governor of Utah. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Stevenson indicated his support for Rep. Cox as lieutenant governor.

3. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Harper adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.